

Appl. No. 10/789,525
Atty. Docket No. 9192ML
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2007
Customer No. 27,752

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REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted prosecution of the application as pending to two groups:

Group I. Claims 1 – 23.

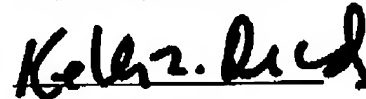
Group II. Claim 24.

The Examiner states that the claims of Groups I and II are independent and distinct, and have acquired a separate status in the art requiring separate searches.

Applicants request Group I for prosecution herein. However, it is noted that Claim 24, the only claim of Group II, depends from Claim 1. All claims of the invention are either directly or indirectly dependent on Claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement. In the alternative, upon a finding of patentability of the claims of Group I, Claim 24 should be rejoined and also found patentable.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement and proceed to examination of the present application on the merits. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be beneficial for disposition of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 2, 2007